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SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 31 March 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose the text of a statement on Bosnia and Herzegovina made by the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 30 March 1993 (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 143, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mustafa AKŞIN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Statement on Bosnia and Herzegovina issued on 30 March 1993 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey

The Vance-Owen plan, designed to achieve a peaceful settlement in Bosnia and Herzegovina, took its final form in the talks in New York. With the signing of the plan by H.E. Alija Izetbegovic, President of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, on 25 March 1993, two of the three peoples living in Bosnia and Herzegovina have endorsed and signed the plan. At this stage, reaching a peaceful settlement, healing the wounds and restoring order in the country will depend on the acceptance of the plan by the third party.

Turkey considers the acceptance of the peace plan by Bosnia and Herzegovina, a member of the United Nations and a partner of the international community, at a time when the attacks to destroy its existence continue, to be a sound, wise and courageous step which displays its sincere commitment to peaceful approaches and solutions even if the conditions may be onerous. Turkey believes that this generous stance will be appreciated by the international community.

Since the beginning of the war, Turkey has been playing an active role to end the aggression against Bosnia and Herzegovina and to stop the ongoing inhuman practices in this country. Through bilateral and multilateral contacts, Turkey has tried to focus the attention of world public opinion and its constructive activities to the settlement of the problem.

It is now time for the international community and the United Nations to undertake the obligation and the responsibility to implement this plan and turn it into a lasting solution. We agree with the justified elements identified by the President of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina when signing the plan :

- The aggressor side should sign the plan within a reasonable time frame.
- The international community should undertake effective measures for the enforcement of the plan.
- The aggression should be stopped at once.

If the aggressor side fails to display peaceful conduct, the resolution concerning the no-fly zone should be enforced and heavy weapons threatening civilians should be placed under the control of the United Nations immediately. If these measures fail to produce results, the lifting of the arms embargo on Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia, which has left the civilian people defenseless, would be a natural step to take to ensure their exercise of the legitimate right to self-defence as provided in the UN Charter.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has been a victim of continuing grave violations of universal principles for many months. The determination which should be displayed by the international community regarding the enforcement of the sanctions imposed on the aggressor must be no different than the measures taken in other regions by the United Nations. By tackling problems in compliance with legal norms, the international community and international organizations will have ensured their own respectability.